

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) A The electronic circuit as claimed in ~~claim 1, characterized in that~~ claim 12, further comprising a third capacitor (C3) is connected between the output (112-1) of the first half bridge (110-1) and either the operating potential (+) or the reference potential (-).

3. (Currently Amended) A The electronic circuit as claimed in ~~claim 1, characterized in that~~ claim 12, further comprising a third capacitor (C3) is connected between the output (112-1) of the first half bridge (110-1) and the reference potential (-), and in that a fourth capacitor (C4) is connected between the operating potential

~~(+)~~ and the output ~~(112-1)~~ of the first half bridge ~~(110-1)~~.

4. (Currently Amended) A The electronic circuit as claimed in ~~claim 1, characterized in that~~ claim 3, further comprising a fifth capacitor (C5) is connected between the output of the second half bridge (112-2) and the operating potential (+), and/or in that a sixth capacitor (C6) is connected between the reference potential (-) and the output (112-2) of the second half bridge (110-2).

Claim 5 (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A The electronic circuit as claimed in ~~claim 5, characterized in that~~ claim 12, wherein the sensor device (130) includes a magnetoresistive sensor.

7. (Currently Amended) A The electronic circuit as claimed in ~~claim 5, characterized by~~ claim 12, further comprising a delay device (150) for delaying the control signal for controlling the switching elements (T1, T2) of the first half bridge (110-1) by a given delay time with respect to the moment when it is detected

that the level exceeds the ~~reference~~ given reference current value
~~IR~~ in upward or downward direction, which delay time is defined
such that at least a desired critical damping establishes itself in
the filter formed by the second coil ~~(L2)~~ and the first capacitor
~~(C1)~~, and that the current through the first coil ~~(L1)~~ changes its
sign at least twice during a switching cycle of the switching
elements ~~(T1, T2)~~ of the first half bridge.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a high-pressure
lamp ~~(120)~~ with a circuit as claimed in claim 12, and further
including the ~~step~~ act of:

operating the second half bridge at a frequency corresponding
to the resonant frequency of the resonant circuit or to an odd
fraction thereof, so as to generate an ignition voltage necessary
for igniting the high-pressure lamp ~~(120)~~.

9. (Currently Amended) A The method as claimed in claim 8,
~~characterized in that~~

~~the step of wherein the~~ operating the second half bridge act
is maintained for at least one second, and, after that, a switch is

made to another operational mode.

10. (Currently Amended) A The method as claimed in claim 9, further including the ~~step~~ act of:

reducing the switching frequency of the second half bridge ~~(110-2)~~, and thus the frequency of the current through the high-pressure lamp ~~(120)~~, after ignition of the high-pressure lamp.

11. (Currently Amended) A The method as claimed in claim 8, further including the ~~step~~ act of:

operating the switching elements ~~(T1, T2, T3, T4)~~ of the first half bridge ~~(110-1)~~ and/or the second half bridge ~~(110-2)~~ in accordance with the principle of voltageless switching.

12. (Currently Amended) In An electronic circuit for operating a high-pressure lamp in at least two modes, comprising:

a first half bridge and a second half bridge connected in parallel between an operating potential and a reference ~~potential,~~ potential;

a filter coupled to the output of the first half bridge

~~circuit, circuit;~~

a resonant circuit coupled to the output of the second half bridge circuit, wherein the lamp can be coupled between the filter and the resonant circuit, and wherein the filter includes a first coil coupled to the output of the first half bridge and the resonant circuit includes a second coil coupled to the output of the second half bridge;

a first capacitor coupled between the first coil and either the reference potential or the operating potential;

a second capacitor coupled between the second coil and either the reference potential or the operating potential or in parallel to the high-pressure lamp;

~~a first means for operating the second half bridge, the improvement comprising:~~ bridge;

second means for operating the first half bridge, whereby the first half bridge and the second half bridge operate independently of each other; wherein said second means includes:

a sensor device for generating a current-sensor signal which represents the value of the current through the first coil; and

a comparator device for comparing the value represented by the

current-sensor signal with a given reference current value and for generating a control signal for controlling the level of the current through the first coil and through the high-pressure lamp to the given reference current value through a suitable variation of the duty cycles of switching elements of the first half bridge.

13. (Currently Amended) The electronic circuit as set forth in ~~claim 12~~ claim 12, wherein said first half bridge includes two switches connected in series, wherein a first switch conducts and a second switch is non-conducting at zero current from the output of the first half bridge during a first mode of operation.

14. (Currently Amended) The electronic circuit as set forth in ~~claim 12~~ claim 12, wherein said second means operates the first half bridge at a higher frequency than the operating frequency of the second half bridge during a second mode of operation.